

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14797 011351Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

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H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL SALT II GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND PRESS COVERAGE ON U.S.

1. SUMMARY. BREZHNEV'S OPTIMISTIC EVALUATION OF PROS-
PECTS FOR U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IN A TOAST AT THE KADAR
DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 25 HAS APPARENTLY SET NEW GUIDELINES

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14797 011351Z

FOR OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND MEDIA COVERAGE ON THAT

SUBJECT. AS A RESULT, THE DUALITY IN SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF THE U.S. IS BECOMING MORE PRONOUNCED: THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S.- SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS RECEIVES INCREASING EMPHASIS WHILE MANY ASPECTS OF U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUE TO BE THE BUTT OF HEAVY-HANDED CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV'S TOAST AT THE KADAR DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 25, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES OF CONTINUITY IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION AND IN WHICH HE ASSESSED THE CHANCES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AS "PRETTY GOOD" (NEPLOKHIE) HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND MEDIA COVERAGE ON U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS. GROMYKO'S SPEECH THE DAY BEFORE PRESENTED AN UNUSUALLY BALANCED TREATMENT OF THE U.S., AND KADAR HIMSELF DURING HIS STAY IN THE SOVIET UNION TWICE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPER POWERS. PRESIDENT FORD'S REPLY TO PODGORNYY'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS WAS FEATURED ON SEPTEMBER 28 EVENING TV NEWS AND WAS FRONT-PAGED ON PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 29 AND IZVESTIYA SEPTEMBER 30.

3. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 29 (YU. YAKHONTOV) EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND MADE USE OF BREZHNEV'S UNUSUAL (THOUGH NOT UNPRECEDENTED) FORMULATION THAT THE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS HAS COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS OF BOTH SIDES. YAKHONTOV CONTINUED THAT THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION "WAS ON THE VERGE OF REACTIVATING (OZHIVILA BYLO)" THOSE FORCES WHICH CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO RETURN THE WORLD TO THE TIME OF THE COLD WAR, AND THAT THEREFORE PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT THAT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE A POLICY AIMED AT A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS RECEIVED "WITH SATISFACTION" IN THE SOVIET UNION. YAKHONTOV'S COMMENTARY CONTINUES ON THIS ISSUE WITH A VIRTUAL REPLAY OF BREZHNEV'S TOAST.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 14797 011351Z

4. PARALLEL WITH SUCH RELATIVELY WARM STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, CRITICISM OF U.S.- FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY CONTINUES UNABATED -- THROWING INTO EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED RELIEF THE DUALITY OF SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE U.S. THIS CRITICISM INCLUDED THE SECRETARY ON SEPTEMBER 24, WHEN IZVESTIYA (IN A SIGNED REPORT FROM THE UN) DESCRIBED HIM AS HAVING "TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES" THREATENED THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES WITH RETALIATION BY THE

"CAPITALIST" COUNTRIES. CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ON THIS
ISSUE IS RECEIVING FAIRLY HEAVY COVERAGE, PRIMARILY
THROUGH REPLAYS OF COMMENTARY IN VENEZUELAN AND ARAB
PRESS. OTHER CRITICISM CONTINUES TO CENTER
ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE, FROM
CHILE TO ITALY; ON U.S. SUPPORT ("...AMERICAN PATRONS...")
OF THE THIEU REGIME; ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CAMBODIA;
ON PLANS FOR ENLARGING DIEGO GARCIA; AND ON U.S. DOMESTIC
AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. CARTOONS IN SOVIET PAPERS AND
MAGAZINES POLLORY PENTAGON PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA,
VARIOUS NATO ACTIVITIES (SUCH AS THE ALLEGED PLANNED
TRANSFER OF NATO BASES FROM GREECE TO ITALY), AND THE
ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE WEST.
DUBS

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